(b) if so, the status of Trishul LLQRM system developed by DRDO;

(c) whether the DRDO project has been abandoned; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government to develop LLQRM indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with M/s Rafael, Israel to procure Spyder Low Level Quick Reaction Missile System (LLQRM) for Indian Air Force.

(b) to (d) The proposal for Trishul system was foreclosed due to its inability to meet certain critical operational requirements. However, it served as a technology demonstrator and the expertise acquired with the technologies developed during design and development phase of Trishul Missile System are being utilised for developing state-of-the-out Short Range Surface to Air Missile System.

Ordnance factory in Gujarat

961. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is contemplating to set up an Ordnance Factory for Defence in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The ordnance factories are set up to meet the sustained long-term demand of arms and ammunition and other military stores of the Armed Forces. The existing and planned capacity of the Ordnance Factories is sufficient to meet the requirement of the Armed Forces.

Joint military exercise with China

962. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese troops conducted joint military exercises in December, 2007 in China;

(b) if so, the details and benefits thereof;

(c) whether such joint exercises will continue in the future between India and China;

(d) Other countries with which such exercises are proposed to be conducted by India in the near future; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first India-China Joint Military Exercise was conducted from 19-27 December, 2007 at Kunming in Yannan Province of China. One infantry company participated in the exercise and a total of 100 troops attended the exercise. The theme of the exercise was Counter Terrorism.

The exercise has given impetus to the ongoing Confidence Building Measures between the two countries and is a positive step towards increased Military to Military interaction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Joint exercises with other friendly foreign countries are considered on a case-to-case basis based on defence cooperation agreements and as directed by our National Security considerations.

Defence deals with other countries

963. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries having defence deals with India; and

(b) who are the first ten biggest suppliers among the above countries with quantum of orders placed on them (in U.S. Doller)?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Procurement of defence equipment is made by the Government from various indigenous as well as foreign sources to meet the requirements of Armed Forces. The import option is exercised when it is necessary to procure the items within a definite timeframe on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and normally when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously within a specified timeframe.

Major countries from which the imports are made at present include Russia, the USA, the U.K.., France, Germany and Israel. Divulging further details with regard to import of defence equipment will not be in the national interest.

Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards

964. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis and role of Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards;

(b) how well has been their performance and whether any survey has been undertaken to measure their performance;

(c) whether they do not even have basic facilities in terms of man power and accommodation;